था । यह आपने कहा है कि सी. बी. आई. को रिपोर्ट दे दी है । मान्यवर, 17-1 85 को सी. बी. आई. में रिपोर्ट दी गयी, 14-4-85 को सी.बी.आई. ने रिपोर्ट दे दी है और 14-4-85 को भी एक वर्ष पूरा हो चुका है । आपा कह रहे हैं कि हमने रिपोर्ट दी है सी. बी. आई. को--पहला मेरा पार्ट (ए) प्रश्न तो यह है--क्योंकि मैं चाहता हूं कि दो प्रश्नों की आज्ञा आप मुझे देंगे । आप अगर मुझे दे सकेंगे, तो मैं आपका बहुत मशकूर होउंगा । मेरे पास प्रश्न बहुत हैं । हाथ जरूर उठाऊंगा अगर मुझे अवसर मिल जाए ।

मान्यवर, 9,300 मीट्रिक टन चावल कांडला पोर्ट से बाहर भेजा गया एन. सी. सी. एफ. के नाम से और क्योंकि कोई 400-500 क्विंटल या टन का सवाल नहीं है, 9,300 टन के लिए कितने दिन लगे होंगे, कितना समय लगा होगा--क्या, मान्यवर, इसकी जानकारी नहीं हुई और अगर हुई है, तो इसको कोई परसू भी हाई कोर्ट में कर रहा है या नहीं ? क्योंकि यह सब मिले हुए हैं, इसलिए कोई परसू भी नहीं कर रहा है ।

तीसरा प्रश्न है, कण्ट्रोल्ड क्लाथ के मिसयूज की बाबत आपने सी. बी. आई. को दिया ।

कृपा करके यह बताएं कि कितना मैटर इनवाल्वड है ? कब आपने सी0 बी0 आई0 को दिया और आखिरी और चौथा सवाल, या फिर मुझे अवसर दे दिया जाएगा तो मैं बैठता हूं । एक क्वेश्चन का अवसर आप और दे दीजिए, इसके दो पार्ट और कर लूंगा ।

SHRI AJIT PANJA: Sir, I will take the rice first. About 10,000 tonnes of rk'e was bought for Rs. 4 crores and it appears that those have been fraudulently smuggled through Kakinada port and the matter was hushed up. The matter was taken up with the NCCF who reported that a committee comprising some directors of NCCF would Inquire into the matter and in pursuance of the recommendation of the sub-committee,, the board decided to file a criminal case against the private party who used the name of NCCF for fraudulently exporting the *Tic** In the name of NCCF and accordingly a case was filed before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate. It has slso been informed that as per the instructions of the court the matter was sent under investigation of CID Crime Branch of Bombay Police. This was mentioned in reply to another question in Parliament. Sir, so far as rice bought for Rs. 1.65 crores lying at Kandla port is concerned, it was found that there was a bungling of 5,000 metric tonnes of rice, valued at Rs. 1.64 crores by NCCF. The NCCF reported that the stock meant for export to Kandla port and lying their for shipment got damaged because there was a heavy downpour and cyclone and that is why the goods were damaged. They lodged a claim with the insurance company who refused t_0 pay when the matter has been taken to High Court for the recovery of the amount covered under the policy. Sir, so far as the inferior quality of pulses is concerned, since the news came, it appears that the irregularities were committed by NCCF in the supply of pulses t_0 FCI. In this connection, the department of Food and Civil Supplies received complaints about irregularities in the supply of pulses worth Rs. 13 crores by NCCF. The FCI after going through the com. plaints came to the conclusion that there is a *prima facie* case of irregularities being committed and, there, fore, Sir, these four zonal managers who were *prima facie* found to be involved in this have been put under suspension.

SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, it seems from paragraph 2 of the reply that so far as the officers are concerned, action has been taken against the president and other top bosses, as they are mentioned in CBI case No. RC-3/85-CIVA registered on 12th April, 1985. There were five officers mentioned. Whereas the Minister's reply says that only a few out of them have been suspended. May J read their names (1) Yogendra Iha,

(2) S. K. Sethi, (3) A. S. Jain, (4) T. S. Gautam and (5) Kimti Lai and as per the CBI findings, Government was cheated by these officers to the tune of Rs. 2 lakhs through this substandard supply. May I know from the hon. Minister, if the findings of the CBI are uniform about all the five officers, why action of suspension has been taken only against a few of them and not against all of them?.

SHRI AJIT PANJA: When the report comes, the Department examines it, and it appears that for a long period—in fact, for three years—these things were going on. We have to identify them one by one, and accordingly the senior officers who are the head, were put under suspension. So far as others are concerned, I can assure the House that under effective directions of my senior colleague, all kinds of corruption will be weeded out of this organisation and each case is being deait with everyday and is being looked into and action is taken.

SHRI NlfRMAL CHATTERJEE. Sir, my only question is as t_0 what prevents the Government to disband the Board.

SHRI AJIT PANJA: This is under Co-operative$_g$ Act and we have not gone into the question of disbanding it. We are taking step$_s$ So far as the offending officers are concerned.

MR. CHAIRMAN; Mr. Shiv Shan-ker, I would like you to look into this matter.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER: Apart from that may I bring to the notice of the House that the gtatutory authority is the Registrar of Cooperative Societies who has got *to* supersede. He has been asked, of course infor mally to look into it because if it is formal, it would be said that he is being influenced by extraneous matters.

श्री वीरेन्द्र वर्मा : क्या माननीय मंत्री जी को जानकारी है कि 14-6-83 को पूर्व चेयरमैन, एन.सी.सी.एफ. श्री आर. जी. गोपाल ने कई बार ज्वायंट सेक्रेटरी फूड एंड सिविल सप्लाइज को अनेकों अधिकारियों के खिलाफ सीरियस कंप्लेंट्स लिखी थीं और रिमाइंडर्ज भी भेजे ? क्या माननीय मंत्री जी को जानकारी है कि उस संबंध में कोई कार्यवाही उन्होंने की है ? दूसरा, एक करोड़ 65 लाख रु. जो काकीनाडा से परमल राइस बाहर भेजा गया था डैमेज दिखला करके, जिसका इंश्योरेंश क्लेम भी आपने मांगा था एन.सी.सी.एफ. ने उसने मना कर दिया था कि हम कोई क्लेम नहीं देंगे । उसके खिलाफ कोर्ट में आप गए हैं और उसकी कोई पैरवी नहीं कर रहे हैं। क्या यह सही है कि यह सारा काम फर्जी है क्योंकि न कोई साइक्लोन आया था [illegible] कुछ और हुआ था मगर फिर भी । करोड़ 65 लाख फर्जी दिखला करके इंश्योरेंश से क्लेम मांगना चाहा है । इंश्योरेंस ने मना कर दिया तो फर्जी केस कर दिया हाई कोर्ट में और वहां उसकी कोई पैरवी नहीं की जा रही है ?

SHRI AJIT PANJA: So far as Kakinada port, I have already answered. It involved 10,000 metric tonnes.

SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA; Kandla Port.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What the hon. Member says is that you have preferred a claim saying that insurance company must pay and the insurance company is s^{avin}g that there was no cyclone or floods or anything of the kind,. Have you pursued the matter in th$_e$ court and what steps you are taking in this direction?

SHRI AJIT PANJA: As I submitted, these are the steps taken by NCCF. It appears...

श्री वीरेन्द्र वर्मा : एन. सी. सी. एफ. तो लेने का ही नहीं है ।

SHRI AJIT PANJA .. that come steps have been taken by NCCF, ther$_e$ is a case in Calcutta High Court also that t_O forestall the action a civil $_s$uit—and somewhere criminal—has been filed by them, and these things are being looked into along-with my senior colleagues- to forestall any action by th$_e$ Government they have done *SQ* and w$_e$ are going into each of the details.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next question.

Pending cases relating to Estate Duty

•184. SHRI J.K. IAIN Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether he has received any memorandum from some widows requesting Government to consider relief measures to the accountably persons whose cases relating to Estate Duty are pending for settlement;

(b) if so, what are the salient points con. tained in the memorandum;

(c) whether Government have since examined the various points; and

(d) if so, what is the outcome there of?

THE MINISTER OF STAFF IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOIARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (d) A Statement is laid on tha Table of the House.

Statement

(b) The salient points made in the memorandum are that valuation of assets for purposes of estate duty should be done as for wealth-tax, value of land should be taken at purchase price; there should be flat rate of estate duty or rate of duty should be reduced; stay against recovery should be granted; rebate should be granted to those who voluntarily file returns; time limit may be fixed for disposal of estate duty and that value of residential house at least *U>* the value of Rs. 5 to 10 lakhs be exempted from levy of estate duty.

(e) and (d) The Government has considered these points.The Estate Duty (Amendment) Act, 1985 provides that no estate duty will be payable in respect of deaths occuring on or after 16th March, 1985. Directions have been issued to field officers to dispose of all pending estate duty assessments early and cases upto declared principal value of R. 3 lakhs should be disposed or summarily without calling the accountable person. With effect from 1st March, 1981, value of one residential house or part thereof belonging to the deceased is assessed at the sarr% amount as is taken for wealth-tax purposes. Under section 33(lXn) of the Estate Duty Act, 1953, one residential house exclusively used by the deceased is exempt from levy of estate duty upto a specified limit.

The Government has not accepted the suggestion that the value of land should be taken at purchase price and not at fair market value or to provide for a flat rate or reduced rate of duty. As regards grant of stuy pending disposal of appeals, it would depend on facts of each case.

श्री जे. के. जैन : सभापति महोदय, प्रश्न के उत्तर में जो आशा थी सरकार से, वही उत्तर मिला और ऐसा प्रतीत होता है कि प्रश्नों से समस्याओं का समाधान यहां नहीं होता है । मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूं कि जो इस्टेट-ड्यूटी समाप्त की गयी, उससे पहले कितने केसेज इस्टेट-ड्यूटी से कनेक्टेड चल रहे हैं और उनमें विडोज के कितने केसेज हैं और जितना रुपया सरकार को उनसे मिलने की आशा है, क्या यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे ?

RM. CHAIRMAN: How can he answer, how many widows are involved? What is this question?

SHRI J. K. JAIN: There is a representation.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can ask about that representation.

SHRI J. K. JAIN; The question relates to widows only. You kindly go through the question. I have asked the question in regard to widows only. I have framed question in that way only.

MR. CHAIRMAN: If he has any information, he can give.

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE: Sir, his question should have been, how many men were unfortunate to leave their wives behind?

SHRI J. K. JAIN: Sir, this is a serious matter. The widows are suffering a lot } for the past ten-fifteen years. They are go-| ing to courts every day.

MR. CHAIRMAN: If you ask a question in regard to those who have submitted memoranda, the Minister will be able to answer. But if you ask, what is the number of widows in whose cases Estate Duty settlement is pending, how can the Minister answer the question?

SHRI J. K. JAIN; All right, Sir, I would like to know, how many cases are pending?

SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI: Sir, the data yielding system does not provide for the information which the hon.Member has asked. Sir, between 1-4-1985 and up to 28-2-S6: we have disposed of 17.620 cases and 14,120 cases are pending for disposal.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Can you say. how many of them relate to widows?

SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI: Sir, 1 have already replied to the question.

श्री जे. के. जैन : सर, मंत्री जी ने यह बताया कि मार्किट वैल्यू के आधार पर ही इस्टेट-ड्यूटी को आंका जाता है । लेकिन कुछ क्लेजेज एसे हैं, जिसमें डी.डी.ए. की सम्पत्ति दस साल से पहले बेची नहीं जा सकती, इसको अगर मार्किट वैल्यू से आंकते हैं, तो यह एक जस्टीफीकेशन नहीं होता। तो मैं मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहता हूं कि जो कुछ केसेज एसे हैं, जिनके ऊपर रिस्ट्रक्शन लगी हुई थी डी.डी.ए. की, कि दस साल से पहले बेची नहीं जा सकती, क्या एसे केसेज को परचेज वेल्यू के आधार पर निर्धारित करने के लिए कोई निर्देश जारी करेंगे ?

SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI; Sir, all these points have been taken into consideration and the suggestion which the hon. Member has made is not practicable.

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE: Sir, this is one law where, when it existed and even today, there is no bar on limitation for completion of assessment of Estate Duty. This has caused very grievous harassment. May I ask of the hon. Minister, are there cases which are pending for more than ten years after the death of a person which have not been decided? Please fix a time-frame by which you can complete the cases. If you are in a position to do so, can you assure the House that within such and such time-limit, you will be able to compete the cases?

SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI; Sir, directions have been given to the field officers to complete them within a year. As I said, 14,120 cases are pending.

MR. CHAIRMAN: How many in compliance, and how many in breach?

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: Sir, I supplement his question. Of the 14,000 odd cases, how many are related to cases of death before 1970, how many before 1975 and how many before 1980? The facts are known. . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: The same question.

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE; There has been a report of the Public Accounts Committee. He cannot feign ignorance. I would like to have the asnwer.

SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI; The information is not available with me.

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: The Public Accounts Committee was seized of the problem. They published a report. How can he say, he does not know?

MR. CHAIRMAN: One does not remember all the reports of all the Committees.

Non-payment of wages <o the employees of 'National Herald'

*185. SHRI V. GOPALASAMY:t

DR. SHYAM SUNDER MOHAPATRA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(al whether it is a fact that the employees of the 'National Hearld' are not being paid their wages|salaries regularly by the management if so, what are the reasons therefor;

fThe question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri V. Gopalsamy.